

body having an operative surface defined by a cavity extending substantially longitudinally therethrough; and

an elongate spreading body for longitudinal introduction into the cavity at the proximal end, an operative surface of the spreading body defined by an external surface thereof, the fixing body operative surface and the spreading body operative surface co-acting to spread open the fixing body transversely with respect to the longitudinal direction thereof by a wedge action for connection to the respective bone fragments, such that after substantially complete introduction of the spreading body into the cavity, the second portion of the fixing body has a greater dimension transversely with respect to the longitudinal direction thereof at the distal end of the second portion than at the proximal end thereof, the fixing body being adapted to be spread open substantially over its entire length.

REMARKS

The applicant respectfully notes that the translation of the specification as filed does not include an abstract, since the WIPO publication includes an English language abstract. It is that abstract which is relied upon as the abstract in this matter.

The amendment to Paragraph [0001] is readily supported by claim 1 and the abstract without introducing new matter. The amendment to Paragraph [0007] is made to conform the reference to an issued United States patent to the more common manner of making such a reference. The information is from the patent cited and introduces matter inherent in that patent.

The amendment to Paragraphs [0038] and [0039] is made to correct a typographical error in the specification, particularly the duplicate use of the reference numeral 16 to refer to the "contour" and the "first part". Attention to Figure 3 shows that the "first part" should be reference numeral 17, as is also indicated in Claim 4 prior to the removal of reference numerals therefrom.

Of the new claims, claim 12 has the limitation of claim 3, but depends from claim 2 rather than claim 1. Claim 13 makes the limitation of claim 4 dependent from claim 12 rather than claim 3. Claim 14 makes the limitation of claim 5 depend from claim 13 rather than claim 4. Claim 15 makes the limitation of claim 6 depend from claim 14 rather than claim 5. Claim 16 makes the limitation of claim 7 depend from claim 15 rather than claim 6. Claim 17 makes the limitation of claim 8 depend from claim 16 rather than claim 7. Claim 18 makes the limitation of claim 9 depend from claim 17 rather than claim 8. Claim 19 makes the limitation of claim 10 depend from claim 18 rather than claim 9. Similarly, Claim 20

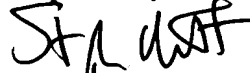
makes the limitation of claim 10 depend from claim 1 rather than claim 9. Claims 21 and 22 make the limitation of claim 11 depend from claims 19 and 20, respectively.

New claim 23 is a recasting of claim 1 into a form more consistent with United States claiming practice.

The above claims have been amended to more closely correspond them to United States claiming practice, namely, by removing multiple dependencies, especially improper multiple dependencies, by removing reference numerals, and by clarifying antecedent basis issues. Also, claim 11 has been amended to eliminate a typographical error in the translation in which it was self-referential. These amendments to the claims are fully supported by the literal translation into English of the specification as filed in Germany, and they do not introduce new subject matter.

The claims as amended are provided on clean sheets.

Respectfully submitted,



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